

AMENDMENT TO THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure found on page 36 as follows:

A method and apparatus for comparing a stored data word to a  
5 comparison data word in a magnitude content addressable memory (MCAM)  
~~are disclosed. Each cell of the MCAM includes a data memory cell for storing~~  
~~a data value and a magnitude comparator, coupled to the first memory cell.~~  
The magnitude comparator receives the data value and a comparison value  
as inputs, and produces two magnitude signals as outputs. The first  
10 magnitude signal indicates whether the comparison value is greater than the  
data value and the second magnitude signal indicates whether the  
comparison value is less than the data value. The magnitude comparator  
also receives magnitude signals from the preceding MCAM cell. The previous  
magnitude signals are output as the first and second magnitude signals when  
15 the data value and the comparison value are equal. The MCAM enables data  
words of arbitrary length to be compared with comparison words. ~~The MCAM~~  
~~cell may contain a second memory for storing a mask value. When the mask~~  
~~value is set, the MCAM cell operates as if the comparison and data values~~  
~~were equal.~~